Evidentiary Document No: 5371:

Statement of Maung Aye Ko, late Camp Officer, Burma-Siam Railway project, a Cinema Artist of Rangoon, Burma.

In 1943, I was appointed a camp officer to supervise Burmese labour on the Siam-Burma Railway project. In the company of 49 other camp officers appointed at the same time, I left Rangoon on 26th July, 1943, and reported at the reception camp at Mupun Station, Moulmein.

There were, then, at that camp about 2000 Burmese labourers. They were housed in barracks open to the inclemencies of the monsoon, which was particularly severe in that part of Burma. Most of the labourers were clad only in a loin cloth and many of them were down with fever. No medical aid appeared to have been given, and the food supply was bad and insufficient. Sanitary arrangements were practically absent.

From the reception camp, batches of 100 to 400 labourers were taken in open railway trucks to Anankwin Camp (45 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat). No arrangement was made for meals during transit. Many cases of attempted and effective escapes from the trucks were reported; military guards had orders to and did shoot deserters. After Anankwin, labourers had to march to the camps appointed for them. Some of these camps were as far as 130 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat.

A few days after arrival at Mupun Camp I and 29 other camp officers were taken by railway as far as Thanbyuzayat. 14 camp officers were left at Thanbyuzayat and 16 others including myself proceeded onwards by motor-trolleys to Lonsi camp (65 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat). From Lonsi, we travelled in motor lorries to Kyontaw camp (95 kilometre from Thanbyuzayat). The last named camp was the headquarters of Conno Butai (No. 5804) under a Major Conno with Lieutenant Sato as his second in command.

On our way from Lonsi to Kyontaw, we found labourers at work, scantily clad in rags or gunny bags. They appeared for the most part to be emaciated and many of them were suffering from sores. Whips and sticks were freely used by the Japanese overseers set over the labourers. There were at work also prisoners of war. They were equally ill clad and many of them appeared to be very emaciated.

At Kyontaw camp, we found the labourers to be about equally composed of Burmese and prisoners of war. Burmese labourers lived separately from the prisoners of war; but the accommodation provided for both and food supplied to

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them are almost the same. Long barracks with bamboo flooring rai. about three feet from the ground and not affording sufficient security from the weather housed both classes. Rice was weevilly and to accompany it used to be supplied a kind of tasteless broth of vegetables. Only about 30 percent of either class could be described as fit; about 30 percent were badly affected by malaria of a virulent type and were very emaciated; and the rest appeared to be suffering from a virulent type of skin disease, which caused big sores to appear mainly on the legs, through the openings of which sores the bones would appear exposed and vermin infesting them. No medical treatment was provided at the camps for the last disease, though it appeared to be fatal in many cases. For malarial patients, quinine used to be provided, but never in sufficient quantities. A hospital was situated at a distance of about 5 kilometres from this camp; but, no transport of any kind was available for the sick. Those too ill to walk to the hospital had to do without any medical attention. Deaths used to average about ten a day, at this camp alone.

The members of Conno Butai were particularly harsh and callous in their dealings with those at work under them. Floggings were freely administered to those who through sheer physical weakness or illness could not work hard enough to please them.

After a few days at Kyontaw camp, five other camp officers and I proceeded by Motor lorry to Kyonkaya camp (114 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat). Three officers including myself were left at this camp and three others were taken onwards to thenext camp at 121 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat. My duties took me often to the last mentioned camp. At Kyonkaya camp as also at the camp at 121 kilometres there were both prisoners of war as well as Burmese labourers. Burmese labourers were then placed on earth-work at the making of an auxilliary motor road; and prisoners of war were engaged in stone carrying and stone-breaking. Cholera epidemic was rife at the camp and many died of it. The dead and dying were piled up and soaking them in petrol, the Japanese used to cremate them. Brutal acts committed on labourers were daily occurrences, but we were powerless to prevent them. One one occasion, when I was coming from the camp at 121 kilometres, I saw a prisoner of war at work in a stone quarry collapse; his companions went up to render aid to him; and the Japanese supervisor belaboured those giving aid to the man who had collapsed with a heavy piece of planking. Another man collapsed on the spot as a result of the beating; and I was told by the Japanese guard to move on. Three days later, when I got back to the place where I witnessed the incident, I saw two dead bodies of the prisoners of war, who had fallen down dead that day. The bodies were in an advanced stage of decomposition. Later I used to pass this spot and I found the

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dead bodies left to rot there till subsequently, there were only the skeletons left at the place. I learnt that it wasaat the orders of the Japanese authorities that the dead were left unburied, as a warning to prisoners of war, and other labourers.

Towards the end of September or the beginning of October, 1943, six prisoners of war escaped and were recaptured. They were from the camp at 126 kilometres; and I was informed by the Japanese officers that after recapture, the prisoners were taken to Thanbyuzayat and were beheaded. Shortly after this incident, I obtained leave and was absent from the camp till February, 1944.

On return from leave, I was stationed at Abalon camp (85 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat). I found two British medical men (prisoners of war) doing good work, saving many lives of Burmese labourers. Yabai Butai with Major Yabia in command was in charge of Abalon camp. Prisoners of war, numbering about 20000, were at work between 100 and 131 kilometres from Thanbyuzayat. Major Yabai and his company were less brutal than Major Conno and his men; but, the Kempeiti had by then been stationed at labour camps, and several prisoners of war and others suffered death at the hands of the Kempeiti. At this time, the railway had been open for some time and Burmese labourers were employed on repairs to and maintenance of the railway line. Prisoners of war had to make the motor road. Work was lighter than in 1943; but food supply and living accommodation were as bad. Medical supplies were almost nil; and deaths from cholera, malaria and emaciation only slightly decreased.

Finding that I could not do anything effective to better the conditions of the labourers, I resigned after a little over two months.

In the few months I was at the labour camps, I saw so many floggings, beatings and deaths, that I became inured to the sight. Even so, there is one sight that left a strong impression on me. It was on my first three months service, in 1943, at a place between 126 and 131 kilometres. I saw about 400 dead bodies, prisoners of war, Burmese and Malays piled up and splashed with petrol and burnt.

(Signed) Maung Aye Ko.

The above statement was signed in my presence by Maung Aye Ko, lately a Camp Officer on Burma-Siam Railway Project, personally known to me.

Stamp of Advocate-General,
Burma.

(Signed) E. Maung
3rd. August, 1946.
Advocate-General,
Burma.

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Ex. 1578-A

Doc 5317

証拠書類 第五三号

「泰緬」工事ノ元野営宿泊所職員ニテ「ビルマ」ニ渡航
映画芸術家デル「マン・アキエ」陳述

私ハ昭和九年三月ヨリ昭和十四年三月迄約六年間「泰緬」鉄道工事ノ元野営宿泊所職員トシテ「ビルマ」ニ渡航シ、其ノ間ノ大部分ヲ「タンビザヤ」ニ在ル集合所ニ勤務シテ居リマシタ。

集合所ニハ常時約二千人ノ労働者ガ居リマシタガ、其ノ内訳ハ「ビルマ」人労働者ガ約千人、「インド」人労働者ガ約千人デアリマシタ。

集合所ニハ病院ガアリマシタガ、医薬品ハ不十分デアリマシタ。

衛生設備、殊ニ便所ハ無イモ同然デアリマシタ。

食物給与ハ不十分デアリマシタ。

労働者ハ一日十時間労働ヲ強要サレマシタ。

労働者ハ一日ニ一回ノ食事シカ与エラレマシタ。

労働者ハ指定サレタ宿泊所ニ収容サ

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所へ行迄ニテ行カネバナラナカッタ。北洋ノ漁泊所、内、若干ハ「デヤンビニーザベッド」カラ百三十粁モ遠クニ在ッタ。××××「レンニー」カラ「キョンタウ」へ、途中我々ハ労働者ガ僅カニ襤褸ヲ纏ッテ京袋ヲ身ニ附ケテ働イテヰルノヲ見附ケタ。彼等ハ大部分痩セテ居リ、多クノ者ハ腫物デ苦シンデ居タ。労働者ノ監督ニテヰル日本人ノ監督ハ鞭ヤ杯ヲ思フ存分振ッテヰタ。其所デハ傷セル又働イテヰタ。彼等モ同ジ様ニ粗末ナモノヲ着テ居リ多クノ者ガ非常ニ痩セテヰル様ニ見エタ。

「キョンタウ」宿泊所デハ我ニハ労働者ガ「ゴルヲ」人ト雑居ヨリ大体同ジ割合デ成リ立ッテヰル事ヲ見出シタ。××××地上ヨリ約三呎程高クシタ竹ノ床ニ天候ニ対シテハ安全性ガ十分ニ呎ヘニレテヰナイ長イ掘立小屋ニ両方共吹窓サレテヰタ。米ハ象鼻蟲ガ付イテ居リソシテ此ヲ伴フニ一種ノ無味ナ野菜汁ガ支給サレルノガ常デアッタ。各組ノ約三十「パーセント」程度ガ壮健ダト云ヒ得タ。約三十「パーセント」ハ悪性ノ「マラリア」ニ罹サレテ居テ非常ニ痩セテヰタ。ソノ他ノ者ハ悪性ノ皮膚病ニ罹ッテヰル様ニ見エタ。立ルニモ歩ムニモ脚ニ大ヤナ腫物ヲ生ゼシメ(此ノ腫物ヲ生ゼシメル原因ハ後ニ述ベタ)ノ、病気ニ対シテハ多クノ場合殆ド命的ナモノハト見エタニモ不拘、宿泊所ニハ何ノ医療準備モナカッタ。「マラリア」患者ニハ「キニーネ」ガ屢々与ヘラレタガ決シテ充分ノ

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量ハ大ヘラレナカッタ。此ノ宿泊所カラ約五粁ノ所ニ病院ガアッタガ病人ニ対シテハ何ラノ輸送ノ法モ提供サレナカッタ。病気ガ重クテ歩イテ病院ヘ行ケナイ者ハ医者ヲ呼ンデ居ナケレバナラナカッタ。死亡数ハ此ノ宿泊所ダケデ平均一日十人ノ割合デアッタ。

細野部隊ノ隊員ハソノ下ニ働ク者ノ取扱ヒニ殊ニヒドイ待遇デアッタ。食ノ内容ハ弱ク又ハ病気ノ為メ彼等ヲ喜バセル十分ニ働ケナイ者ニハ殴打テガ思ヲ与ヘルカヘラレタ。メメメノ「ヤヨンカサ」宿泊所ト又百ニ十一粁ノ所ニアル宿泊所ニモ俘虜ノニ「ピルマ」人労働者ヲ居タ。「ピルマ」人労働者ハ当時補助日動車道路建設ノ土木工事ニ配属セラレ俘虜ハ石運ビヤ石割リニ従事シテヰタ。宿泊所デハ「コレラ」ガ流行シ多クノ者ガ之デ死ンダ。死亡者ヤ瀕死ノ者ハ折リ重ネテ積ミ上ゲラレ日本兵ハニヤニヤガリナガラ之ヲ踏ミ付ケテ埋ムルノヲ常トシタ。労働者達ニ対スル残虐ナ行為ハ日常茶飯事デアッタガ我ニ立タ時ニハ之カデアッタ。或時私ガ百二十一粁ノ所ニアル宿泊所カラ帰ッテ来ル時私ハ石切場デ働キテヰタ一人ノ俘虜ガ倒レルノヲ見タ。彼ノ仲間ハ彼ヲ援助スル為メ処ヘ行ッタ。日本人ノ監督ハ此ノ倒レタ者ニ援助シテヰル者達ヲ直ク杖切レデ殴リ付ケタ。他ノ一人ハ殴ラレタ為メ其ノ場ニ倒レタ。ソシテ私ハ日本人ノ衛兵ニ立去レト命ゼラレタ。三日ノ後私ガ此ノ事件ヲ日撃シタ処ニ再ビ行ッタ時私

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先日倒レテ居ッタ二人ノ俘虜ノ死体ヲ見タ。死体ハ大分腐ッテ、状態モアッタ。後ニ私ハ此所ヲ度々通ッテ此ノ死体ガ腐ル迄ニ埋葬シテ了ヒ、後ニハ骸骨丈ガ其所ニ残ッテヰルノヲ見タ。私ハ此ノ俘虜ヲ其処ノ労働者ノ見セシメノ為ニ連レテ来リ、日本ノ軍司令官ノ命令ヲ実行シタノデアル事ヲ知ッタ。

一九四三年ノ九月ノ終リカ十月ノ始メ頃六名ノ俘虜ガ脱走ヲ計ヘテヰタ。彼等ハ百二十六粁ノ所ニアル宿泊所ニ着迄ニアッタ。ソシテ私ハ日本人将校カラ此ノ俘虜達ハ再ビ捕ッタ後「テアニビニー ヂヤット」ニ連レテ行カレ斬首サレル事ヲ聞イタ。メメメメ

労働者ノ状態ヲ改良スルニ何等有効ナコトヲ為シ得ナカッタ。私ハ二箇月ト少シ経ッタ後辞職シタ。

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